

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231 on the date indicated below.

  
Stephanie A. Malick

Date

12/3/99



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Zittel et al.

Serial No.: 09/419,716

Examiner: (not assigned)

Filed: October 14, 1999

Group Art Unit: 1761

Title: *Method and Rotary Blancher for Processing Food Product*

RECEIVED  
DEC 13 1999  
TC 1700 MAIL ROOM

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner of Patents  
and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

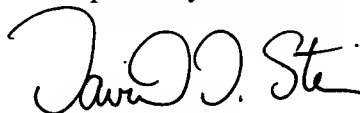
This Information Disclosure Statement is filed under the provisions 37 CFR §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b)(3). A copy of each reference or document listed on the attached PTO Form 1449 is also included as required under 37 CFR § 1.98.

**REMARKS**

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted prior to the mailing of a first office action on the merits as permitted under § 1.97(b)(3) and therefore no fee is due at this time. The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee or credit any overpayment to deposit account number 14-1080 if necessary.

Applicants make no assertion regarding the materiality of the documents noted in the attached Form 1449. Each of the documents may be relevant as general background to the present invention. Applicants therefore request that these documents be considered during examination of the instant application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David D. Stein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" and last name "Stein" clearly distinguishable.

David D. Stein  
Registration No. 40,828

Dated: December 3, 1999

NILLES & NILLES, S.C.  
Firststar Center, Suite 2000  
777 East Wisconsin Avenue  
Milwaukee, WI 53202-5345  
Telephone: (414) 276-0977  
Facsimile: (414) 276-0982